

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on May 4, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 5-6, 9-11, 14, 17-23, and 25-28 are amended and no claims are cancelled or added; as a result, claims 1-28 are now pending in this application.

§ 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 7-9, and 18-28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,905) in view of Hagiuda, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,225). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as set forth below.

At page 3 of the Final Office Action of May 4, 2006, the Examiner cites Column 14, lines 30-34 of the Mitsuhashi reference as describing “requesting an appropriate image from each of one or more external devices attached to a printing system...” Specifically, Column 14, lines 30-34 recite, “wherein said central processing unit accesses the virtual device image data from an external storage means detachably connected to said information processing apparatus.” Therefore, the Mitsuhashi reference appears to describe an apparatus in which the entire set of virtual image data is retrieved from one external storage source. From Applicant’s review of the Mitsuhashi reference, there is not a description, teaching, or suggestion of requesting **multiple images from each of multiple external devices** attached to a printing system and using a merge module to automatically **combine an image from each of the multiple images from the external devices with a printing device image** to create a system image.

In contrast, Applicant’s independent claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

based on the event code, requesting multiple images from each of multiple external devices attached to a printing system;
using a merge module to automatically combine an image from each of the multiple images from the external devices with a printing device image to create a system image

Applicant's independent claim 9, as amended, recites in part:

based on the event code, requesting multiple images from each of multiple external devices attached to a printing system;
using a merge module to automatically combine an image from each of the multiple images from the external devices with a printing device image to create a system image

Applicant's independent claim 18, as amended, recites in part:

requesting multiple images from each of multiple external devices, at least one image of the multiple images from each of the external devices being defined by the event code;
using a merge module to form a system image by automatically combining the at least one image of the multiple images from each of the external devices and a printing device image

Applicant's independent claim 21, as amended, recites in part:

requesting multiple images from each of multiple external devices, at least one image of the multiple images from each of the external devices being defined by the event code;
using a merge module to form a system image by automatically combining the at least one image of the multiple images from each of the external devices and a printing device image

Applicant's independent claim 22, as amended, recites in part:

automatically combine the printer image with at least one image of multiple images requested from each of multiple external devices to form a system image

Applicant's independent claim 26, as amended, recites in part:

request multiple external images from each of multiple external devices;
form a coherent system image by automatically combining a printer image and an external image from each of the multiple external images from each of the external devices

Applicant's independent claim 27, as amended, recites in part:

multiple external devices, each external device having multiple external device images;
wherein the printing device comprises a merge module configured to:
request multiple external device images from each of the external devices;

retrieve the multiple external device images;
automatically combine at least one of the multiple external device images from each of the external devices and the printing device image into a system image

Finally, Applicant's independent claim 28, as amended, recites in part:

multiple external devices, each external device having multiple images of itself;
wherein the printing device comprises a merge module configured to:
interpret an event code;
request multiple external device images from each of the external devices based on the event code;
automatically combine at least one of the multiple external device images from each of the external devices and the printing device image into a system image

Support for the above claim language is found in the Applicant's specification, as originally filed, on page 11, lines 25-27 and on page 12, lines 5-7.

From the Applicant's review of the Hagiuda reference, the Hagiuda reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Mitsuhashi reference. That is, Hagiuda similarly does not describe, teach or suggest the above illustrated claim language, either independently or in combination with Mitsuhashi.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1, 9, 18, 21-22, and 26-28, as amended, is not described, taught, or suggested in the Mitsuhashi and Hagiuda references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection for the above independent claims 1, 9, 18, 21-22 and 26-28, as well as those claims which depend therefrom, is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 11, and 13-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,905) in view of Hagiuda, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,225) and further in view of Rabjohns, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,881).

Applicant's independent claim 10, as amended, recites in part:

during the initializing, receiving multiple images of multiple external devices from the external devices;
receiving an event code from an external device;
based on the event code, combining an image from each of the multiple images from the external devices with a printing device image to form a system image.

Also, Applicant's independent claim 17, as amended, recites in part:

during the initializing, receiving multiple images of multiple external devices from the external devices;
receiving an event code from an external device;
based on the event code, combining an image from each of the multiple images from the external devices with a printing device image to form a system image.

Support for the above claim language is found in the Applicant's specification, as originally filed, at page 11, lines 1-5.

For the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Mitsuhashi nor Hagiuda, either independently or in combination, describe, teach, or suggest each and every element and limitation of independent claims 10 and 17. Moreover, the Rabjohns reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Mitsuhashi and Hagiuda references. For example, Rabjohns does not describe, teach, or suggest, either independently or in combination with Mitsuhashi and/or Hagiuda, **"receiving multiple images of multiple external devices from the external devices" and "combining an image from each of the multiple images from the external devices with a printing device image to form a system image"**.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection for the above independent claims 10 and 17, as well as those claims which depend therefrom, is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,905) in view of Hagiuda, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,225), further in view of Rabjohns, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,881), and further in view of McCormick, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,411).

Claim 12 depends from independent claim 10. For the reasons provided above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Mitsuhashi, Hagiuda, and Rabjohns do not describe, teach, or suggest each and every element and limitation of independent claim 10 as amended. McCormick does not cure the deficiencies of the Mitsuhashi, Hagiuda, and Rabjohns references with respect to independent claim 10. That is, McCormick does not describe, teach, or suggest , **“receiving multiple images of multiple external devices from the external devices”** and **“combining an image from each of the multiple images from the external devices with a printing device image to form a system image”** as provided in Applicant’s independent claim 10.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection with respect to claim 12.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Gregg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23rd day of June, 2006.

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